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1. During the years of World War II, the process of promotion in the officers' corps was rather simple. The People's Commissar of Defense of the USSR-- at that time, Stalin--established the following system of promotions. Every officer who spent at least eight continuous months in an advanced line was entitled to promotion to the next grade. For instance, a senior lieutenant who fought directly in an advanced line for eight months without interval was to receive the rank of captain. Naturally, Moscow did not notify the senior lieutenant that he had been made captain unless the division command applied to the People's Commissar of Defense for his promotion. However, every request of this kind was immediately granted. An officer entitled to promotion had to have some close ties with the officer in charge of replacements in the division, who prepared lists of officers for the signature of the commander and of the commissar of the division. When he had such connections, he was sure of his promotion. Having been promoted to a higher rank, an officer, even without being promoted to a higher post, which depended also on the command of the regiment and division, received an increase in pay, because every officer is paid both for service and rank; the higher the rank, the higher the pay.
2. Beginning with the end of World War II, the system was completely changed. Regulations provide that a senior lieutenant now must serve four years in order to be promoted to captain. A captain must also serve four years to become a major, while a major needs only three years of service in that rank to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. After three years of service as lieutenant colonel, he is eligible to become a full colonel. All this, however, does not entitle an officer to promotion unless the commander of the division states in his report that such and such captain is irreproachable, that he knows his job well, that he is capable and a good soldier, that he knows military science, that he is sober, and that he possesses other good qualities.

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3. Another character report, more important and decisive than the first one, must be submitted by the political section of the division stating that the captain in question is a member of the Party (Party members have preference), is well disciplined, is good at social activities, takes an active part in political studies and meetings, enjoys prestige among Party members, is completing successfully the short course in the history of the VKP/b, is studying the works of Lenin and Stalin, has not been subject to Party reprimand, and is devoted to the cause of Lenin and Stalin. If a captain has this kind of report, he does not need any military education or any other special education. Such a character report is the best possible recommendation and sure means of getting a promotion from the offices of the People's Commissariat of Defense USSR, even if the captain has not served his full four years.

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4. As regards the length of assignment of officers to occupation armies, officers who were sent as replacements from the USSR were promised to be kept there for two years, but their length of stay depended upon their conduct. If an officer served his unit conscientiously, the latter depended upon him and kept him beyond his term indefinitely; if he did not do well, he was removed before his term expired. I am not familiar with conditions in the Far East. This information is as of 1948.

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